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## A GARDEN SPOT FORGOTTEN BY MAN

THE WAY MOROCCO IS DESCRIBED  
BY KANSAS CITYAN WHO HAS  
JUST RETURNED.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 16.—The popular impression of Morocco, Algiers and Tripoli is that they are only sand-blown deserts, anyhow, and that all this concert of nations and Italian expeditions, French "predominant influence" and Spanish patrols are a ridiculous example of much ado about nothing. And while other nations have been thinking that pretty generally, France has been enmeshing Morocco, which for several centuries under the Roman empire was the bread basket of Europe and which today has three times as great a wheat area as Oklahoma, filled mostly with crooked sticks, besides mines of copper, iron, gold and silver that would make the Guggenheims and the steel trust envious if they realized it. And there are petroleum fields there, too, and every kind of semi-tropical vegetables and fruit grows readily. All this within a four-day water haul of London.

That, according to John H. Thacher, a Kansas City lawyer just returned from Morocco, is the prize that French diplomacy and craft has practically won while Europe wasn't looking and right now about the most aggressive opponent of French trickery in Morocco is a Kansas Cityan, Maxwell Blake, consul general of the United States at Tangier. Mr. Blake is making a determined effort to attract the attention of Americans to the great field for development, but Americans are generally inclined to regard the whole thing as small potatoes and a few in a hill.

Back in 1904, when England was very much interested in Egypt, France gathered together a job lot of

imaginary claims in Africa, Newfoundland and other places and traded them to England in exchange for the recognition of France as the "predominant influence" in Morocco and the relinquishment of English claims there. That's what France called an entente. Then France lent money to Morocco with mortgages on the Moroccan customs as security. Now French officers supervise the customs in Morocco and France is spreading its control a little at a time. Small outbreaks against tax collectors are magnified as "outrages" and the attention of the European grandstand is attracted to them. Then France moves its troops a little farther and clinches its hold a little tighter.

"Pacific penetration" is what France calls it. That, Mr. Thacher says, really means "benevolent assimilation" only it is done with less expense, for the socialists of France would cause trouble if the nation came out in the open and subjected Morocco as it did Algiers.

"In 1907," Mr. Thacher said today, "the French were building a little dummy railroad at Casablanca on the dusty coast of Morocco. The road encroached on a Moorish cemetery and the Moroccans objected. There was a fight and several Frenchmen were killed. Then the French bombarded Casablanca and landed troops. Last spring France became worried over 'outrages' at Fez, the capital of Morocco, and sent an army under General Mounier to occupy the city. The outrages, so they say in Morocco, consisted of a mounted party of citizens refusing to pay their taxes.

"Then Spain and Germany staged burlesque of the French methods. Spain found an imaginary 'outrage' at a little town called Larache and sent troops there and on to Alcazar. Spain and France, under the Algeiras treaty, have the right to police the Moroccan cities to protect foreigners who say they need no protection. Following the Spanish intervention at Larache the Germans feared that the half a dozen Teutons at Agadir, a little coast town, were in danger and sent a gunboat there. Out of that arose the row between France and Germany which was settled with

France well in the lead. Meantime France keeps slipping the boundary of Algiers a little farther west and buying and otherwise acquiring land and rights in the country. The plan appears to be to shut Morocco up just as Algiers now is walled in by French duties and port charges until no other nation can get a chance at the commerce.

"In Tangier an acre tract that was sold a few years ago for \$1,000 was bought by a French company the other day for \$60,000 to be sold on the Paris market. Very few of the Moroccans have titles to the land upon which they live. The French companies get deeds to such land from Moorish officers under their influence and then oust the Moorish owners. Anything that they can do to get land is done, provided it comes within 'predominant influence' and 'pacific penetration,' which seems to include almost anything that will not attract the attention of Europe too much.

"The French policy is responsible for the overlooking of this great garden spot along the Mediterranean and at the Atlantic and the untold mineral riches of the Atlas mountains—that is their overlooking by everyone except the French and John D. Rockefeller, for the Standard Oil company has tank stations at Tangier and one or two other Moroccan cities. The Moroccans farm what they can with their old, crooked stick methods, but they are not encouraged by this 'predominant influence' to get modern machinery. A German syndicate got hold of some 22,000 acres of the land and modern methods are used in tilling it, but that is practically the only up to date farming we saw in Morocco and that is a thorn in the side of the French.

"The Moors raise a little cotton, olives, bananas and vegetables, but the land is scarcely more than scratched. It won't be, probably, until France succeeds in adding Morocco to Algiers and Senegal and thus linking up a territory probably as large as the United States under the tricolor of France. And all that, mind you, within a few days' haul by water from the great consuming districts of Europe.

"England, in spite of its hands-off policy, has 63 per cent of the Moroccan trade and Germany is ahead of France in commerce, but that is not to last if the French schemes work out. Here's an example of French diplomacy. A treaty was made extending the west line of Algiers to a town on the Mediterranean coast. It happened that there was a river bearing the same name as the town. After the treaty was made the French construed it as referring to the river instead of to the town and the river meandered off into Morocco beyond line of the town. A French officer, explaining that deal, said that France knew no European nation would go to war over such a little thing as a few miles of territory in Africa, and of course, it didn't make much difference what Morocco thought about it. If there were any fresh 'outrages' as a result of it they would serve very well as an excuse for the taking of a few towns and a few thousand acres of wheat land.

"A man named Harris, correspondent in Morocco for the London Times, wrote some rather plain-spoken things about the French a few years ago. They didn't sound the least bit flattering to the French, so Mr. Harris was decorated with the red ribbon of the Legion of Honor in an effort to change his view point. But that's just one of France's ways of keeping the attention of Europe away from Morocco.

"The policy of the French so far as developments is concerned seems to be to build good roads, which they are certainly doing, to erect fine government buildings and to establish cafe chantants. As far as getting business interested in Morocco is concerned, that is just what they are trying to avoid. And there is where Mr. Blake's work comes in. He is doing everything possible to get American products into the hands of the Moors. About all he has succeeded in doing so far is to get a shipment of flypaper landed at Tangier, but he is keeping at the job and is protesting every time he has the chance against French trickery with the natives."

In Casablanca Mr. Thacher's party met Captain Cobb, a Connecticut Yan-

kee, who was skipper of an American boat wrecked off the coast nearly 40 years ago. Captain Cobb crawled out of the surf to shore and started a grist mill which he has run ever since, and he has made money, but he never has learned a word of Arabic. He doesn't care for the 'lingo.' One of the travelers told Captain Cobb he was from the Middle West in the United States.

"Then you've read the Kansas City Star?" the captain said. "I take that paper myself."

"How in thunder do you happen to be taking the Star way over here?" he was asked.

"Well, I read in the World's Work about it and decided it was the best paper I could get," was the answer.

Mr. Thacher left Kansas City the middle of September on a boat bound for Naples. He disembarked at Tangier and had two weeks or more of boar hunting and sightseeing in Morocco. Then he made a short trip into Spain and caught the boat on the return trip, reaching Kansas City a few days ago.

"A pretty long trip for such a short time abroad?" a friend suggested.

"Just the ideal vacation from a desk," Mr. Thacher said. "It's the finest kind of a trip and a most interesting one. Tangier is becoming a great winter resort. Several wealthy Americans and Englishmen have villas there, but don't forget that France is going to have it bottled up if there aren't more consuls like Maxwell Blake put to work there."

DE GUIGNE-ELKINS WEDDING  
Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 16.—Miss Marie Louise Elkins, whose share of the large fortune left by her father, the late William Elkins, amounted to about \$2,000,000, was married today to Christian de Guigne, Jr., of San Francisco. The wedding took place at the Belgravia and was attended by many prominent guests.

A trip around the world, meeting only strangers, isn't half as much to a woman as three hours in an opera box with friends down in the dress circle to see her.

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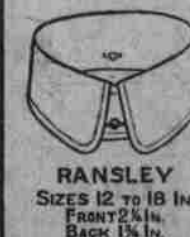
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